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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

WASHINGTON POST - Monday 20 June 1960

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Poles 'Doom' Spy Defector

Reuters

WARSAW, June 19—Col. Pawel Monat, former Polish Military Attache in Washington who defected to the West last summer, has been condemned to death in his absence for desertion, the Polish Communist Party newspaper Trybuna Ludu reported today.

Unconfirmed reports here said Monat was a top Polish espionage agent and took the key to Polish and Soviet codes with him when he defected.

He was believed to have gone to American officials in Vienna last August and asked for political asylum.

Monat was believed to have been a top coordinator of military espionage networks in certain western countries and his defection was considered a serious blow to Polish prestige in the Communist Bloc.

The death sentence was passed by a Warsaw District Military Court.

The announcement of the sentence appeared in a nine-line item headed "death sentence for desertion" buried in the corner of the newspaper's foreign news page. It was the first official acknowledgement here of Monat's defection.

Monat's defection was followed by the return to power of Gen. Kazimierz Witaszewski, who is believed to have warned Warsaw authorities of his doubts about Monat.

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